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[563] Instead of the second foreign language, the language of instruction and general literature are taught. There are only 23 weekly lessons in French, 12 in drawing, 25 in physical culture and pre-military training, and 9 in manual training and housekeeping for girls.

Schools Public or Private

Nineteen thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine secondary school students were attending 66 gymnasia and 34 progymnasia in 1937; in 1919 there were 5 gymnasia and 33 progymnasia with 9,213 students. These schools may be either State (public) or private. The former are founded and maintained by the State; the latter, with the permission of the Minister of Education, by corporations, ecclesiastical orders, and private individuals. All the private schools are under the control of the Ministry of Education which grants subventions toward their maintenance, sends official delegates to inspect the work carried on in them, and appoints their teachers. The students in some of the private gymnasia enjoy all the privileges extended to students in the State schools. In others they do not, and in order to acquire those rights the students must at the end of their course of study, pass examinations in the State schools or in their own schools in the presence of a delegate of the Ministry of Education. The relative numerical status of the two types of schools is:

Type	Progymnasia	Gymnasia
State	22	33
Private:		
Lithuanian	2	10
Jewish	5	14
German	4	5
Latvian	1	----
Polish	----	3
Russian	----	1

Nine gymnasia and one progymnasium have been especially set aside for the education of girls, and eight for the education of boys. All

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562 873 the others are mixed but in the larger schools in which parallel classes exist, separate classes for boys and girls are established.

875 [658] The extension of the network of secondary schools produced in the first years of Lithuania's independence a shortage of teachers, and educating a staff was undertaken by the State. Teachers were trained in foreign universities, and from 1922 onwards in the University of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas, as well. Most of the 1,432 teachers now employed are university graduates and possess the qualifications required by the Ministry of Education. They are classified as junior teachers, teachers, and senior teachers. The rank of junior teacher is granted to persons who have taken a university course in psychology, pedagogics, the history of pedagogics, pedology, and the methodology of their specialties, or have passed examinations in these subjects and have completed their studies in the subjects necessary for the teaching of their specialty. Junior teachers who have taught successfully not less than 2 years and have conducted two probational lessons in their specialty may be elevated by the Ministry of Education to the rank of teachers. Teachers who have taught with outstanding success for at least 5 years may be raised to senior teachers.

School Competitions

873 555 A State physical culture badge to encourage physical fitness, scout troops and circles, camps for students, and travel during the vacation period are all connected with secondary education, but perhaps the most noteworthy activity to promote all-sided scholastic progress and interscholastic cooperation is the school competitions that were organized first in 1935 and take place at the end of the school year.

In these competitions the secondary schools strive for supremacy in the reading and recitation of Lithuanian, French, and German, drawing, singing, and physical culture. In

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Technical Instruction

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658 Up to the Great War there were no technical schools in Lithuania, and technical instruction was received in the course of apprenticeship. The work of reconstruction after the recovery of independence created a great demand for skilled labor and special arrangements had to be made for systematic vocational training. For this purpose the state began to found technical schools but progress was slow until 1926 when a Department of Technical Education was organized in the Ministry of Education and the network of technical schools began to be systematically developed.

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"Lithuanian soirées" thus went far beyond the purpose of simple entertainment.

Nevertheless, it involved only the work of amateurs. The creation of a central Lithuanian theater that should unite all the artistic forces of the country, was an idea of the future and could only become a reality after the state had been founded. We can name two important dates here, the year 1920 as the /186/ year of foundation of the dramatic theater and the opera, and the year 1925, in which the first full-length ballet, Coppelia, was produced.

The Lithuanian opera was created almost out of nothing. Singers, choruses, orchestras, conductors, directors, as well as all the rest of the personnel did not suddenly become available, but needed a fairly long period of training. The nucleus of the new troup was formed by the famous tenor of the St. Mary Theater in Petersburg, Kipras Petrauskas, as well as M. Rakauskaitė and Ant. Sodeika, who returned from America. Other artists joined them, and thus on December 31, 1920, after the overcoming of many difficulties, Verdi's La Traviata could be performed as the first opera.

658 The Lithuanian opera and the dramatic theater which originated in the same year were founded by the Lithuanian Art Society (Lietuvių Meno Kūrėjų Draugija), and in the spring of 1922 were taken over by the state. An extraordinary development from an artistic point of view can be observed from then on. About 50 operas were performed, among them three Lithuanian: Gražina and Radvila Perkūnas by Karnavičius, and The Three Talismans by A. Račiunas. A further opera, Eglė, the Serpent Queen by M. Petrauskas, is in preparation. From the many others, only a few may be named: Verdi's La Traviata, Rigoletto, Il Trovatore, The Masked Ball, Aida; Puccini's Madame Butterfly, La Tosca, La Bohême; Gounod's Faust; Bizet's Carmen; Tschaikovsky's Eugene Onegin and Pique Dame; Wagner's Lohengrin

538 the novel Pirmieji metai (The First Year). In his novel in two volumes Ieškau gyvenimo draugo (I Seek a Companion through Life) Liudas Dovydėnas introduces us to the life of elementary school teachers. Another of his works from peasant life, Broliai Domeikos (The Brothers Domeika) earned for him the state prize in 1936. (13) Along with

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13. The Lithuanian state, since 1935, has regularly given a prize of money for the most valuable literary work of the year: the importance of this practice should not be underestimated, since in a small nation, even under the most favorable circumstances, literary works have editions of only a few thousand copies.

those already mentioned, Inčiūra and Zobarskas are making a name for themselves among the writers of novels. A tender and subtle love story, Valentina, was published by Vaičiulaitis.

536 In comparison to the abundance of prose publications, especially of the last decades, dramatic writing has been secondary, although its traditions, too, reach back as far as the period of the prohibition on printing. Along with Fromas Gužutis (1822-1900), whose drama in five acts Ponai ir Mužikai (Lords and Peasants) is based on the relations between the nobility and the people, Petliukas and Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, with his drama Blinda, became known after 1900. The greatest success was achieved by Keturakis (pseudonym for J. Vilkutaitis) with his peasant comedy, published in 1895, Amerika Pirtyje (America in the Pirtis), which at that time went across all the amateur stages of Lithuania and has still proved to be a drawing card even today. In addition, Šiaulėniškis may be named; his drama Sparnai (Wings) is under the influence of modern symbolism.

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